

NOTES | July 16, 2007

Technical Work Group Meeting

Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan

Next Technical Work Group meetings

- Monday, August 13, 2007, 1-3 p.m., Sonoma Community Center
- Monday, September 10, 2007, 1-3 p.m., Sonoma Community Center

Ongoing action items

- Formation of an advisory group regarding options analysis, option D, on conservation
- Obtain legal opinion from SCWA counsel on risk to well owners of forfeiture of groundwater rights resulting from acceptance and use of recycled water

Water Resources Setting

- Mark Nordberg advised that the Department Health Services (DHS) has changed its name to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- One member felt that the last paragraph of the Water Resources Setting, relating to water use in the Sonoma Valley, represented a good summary of the document, which should perhaps be placed at or near the beginning.
- One member suggested that information about the new SCWA reclamation project under construction be added in an appropriate section.
- One member requested that a statement concerning the historic trend requiring deeper wells be added to section 3.3.2.4, on p. 10 of the draft.
- Another member felt that concerns about forfeiture of rights to groundwater might impede efforts to promote the use of recycled water to existing well-owners. Jay agreed to seek advice from SCWA legal counsel on this issue, and report back to the group.
- The group requested inclusion of a recommendation for development of further information and studies on the potential for non-urban residential property owners to construct individual water-collection systems intended to increase groundwater recharge. One member suggested this should include the potential for capture and reuse of gray water.

Management Plan Elements

- One member requested that cost estimates be included for recommended actions and programs
- On behalf of Pete Parkinson, a request was made to clarify the name of the CoS Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD).

- One member raised the issue of the relationship in the plan between groundwater resources and land use patterns and regulation. Another member clarified that assumptions about population and land use in the plan have been obtained from existing regulatory documents and supporting studies.
- The group discussed the importance of recognizing that a significant portion of groundwater users in the valley are private well owners, estimated to be 40% by number, and 80% by volume. This raises important implications and, in some cases, limitations, for any studies, programs, or recommendations contained in the plan.

Modeling – Options Analysis

- Tim updated the group on the schedule for running the Visual MODFLOW computer simulation tool, and asked that all available input and data be provided no later than Wednesday, July 18. He also answered several questions clarifying the nature of the model and inputs that will be used, including data gathered from hydrologic and well testing records.
- One member requested that an account of potential affects from global warming be included in the analysis, when reliable data and analyses become available.

Next Steps:

- TWG members may provide Tim directly (copy Jeff) further comments, requests, and suggested edits on each of these items, and these elements will be the discussed at the July 26 BAP meeting.
- Remaining elements of the GMP will be reviewed by the TWG at its next two meetings.

Participants

Al Bandur
 Lu Benson
 Rochelle Campana
 James Cannard
 Norm Goldstein
 Jay Jasperse
 Krishna Kumar
 Ed Nelson
 Mark Nordberg
 Kathy Pons
 John Robb
 Tito Sasaki
 Leandra Swent

Staff

Tim Parker, Schlumberger, technical consultant
 Jeff Goldfien, Center for Collaborative Policy, facilitator